

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 4, 16, 22 and 28 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 12, 17, 21, 23, 24 and 29 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-21, 23-27 and 29 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 5, 6, 16, 17, 22 and 23. By way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 12 has been amended to include the features of “objected to” (and now canceled) claim 16, whereby presently pending independent claim 12 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 16. Presently pending claims 13-15 and 17-20 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 12, and thus those claims are also now in allowable form. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 21 has been amended to include the features of “objected to” (and now canceled) claim 22, whereby presently pending independent claim 21 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 22. Presently pending claim 23 depends from claim 21, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 7-13, 18-21 and 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,057,747 to Minigawa; and claims 2-4, 14, 15, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minigawa in

view of U.S. Patent No. 7,173,730 to Suzuki et al. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of its dependent claim 4 (now canceled). Presently pending independent claim 24 has been amended to include the features of its dependent claim 28 (now canceled), whereby claims 4 and 24 recited similar features. In particular, presently pending independent claim 1 now recites that:

updating the default setting for the second imaging option comprises updating a history table having a predetermined number of entries of imaging options provided by the user, and

wherein determining the default setting for the second imaging option comprises determining which second imaging option in the history table is most often provided by the user in combination with the set first imaging option.

In its rejection of claim 4, the Office Action correctly recognizes that Minigawa does not teach the features recited in that claim; however, the Office Action incorrectly asserts that Suzuki et al. teaches those features. Namely, the Office Action asserts that column 22, lines 1-7 of Suzuki et al. teaches updating the default setting for the second imaging option comprises updating a history table having a predetermined number of entries of imaging options provided by the user. However, column 22, lines 1-7 of Suzuki et al. merely describes that when a selected file is not being edited by another user, the selected file is allowed to be downloaded from the server to the user who has desired that file. Thus, at best, this portion of Suzuki et al. describes that a “use/not-in-use” flag is provided for each file stored in a server, whereby files that are currently in-use by one user are not allowed to be downloaded from the server to another user. This providing of a “use/not-in-use” flag for each file has nothing at all to do with providing information as to which users have used which files in the past or at present (that is, Suzuki only cares if a file is in-use, and does not care who actually is using that file at the present time or how many times that file was used in the past), and certainly it has nothing at all to do with storing information as to uses of one option by a user in combination with uses of another option by that same user.

Accordingly, since Suzuki et al. does not teach or suggest the features recited in claim 4, now incorporated into presently pending independent claim 1, presently pending independent claim 1 is patentable over the combined teachings of Minigawa and Suzuki et al.

Presently pending independent claim 24 now recites similar features (of claim 28, now canceled) that are similar to those discussed above with respect to presently pending independent claim 1, and thus presently pending independent claim 24 is patentable over the combined teachings of Minigawa and Suzuki et al.

Please note that the other two presently pending independent claims 12 and 21 have been amended to include features of their respective 'objected to' claims 16 and 22, and thus those claims, along with the claims that depend from those claims, are patentable over cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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